



Date of Council Meeting: September 26, 2016

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Information Memo**

Subject: East Market Street and Battlefield Parkway Interchange Project Update

Staff Contact: Renée M. LaFollette, P.E., Director, Public Works & Capital Projects
Calvin K. Grow, Transportation Engineer, Public Works & Capital Projects
Thomas H. Brandon, Capital Projects Manager, Public Works & Capital Projects

Council Action Requested: Information only. No action is required by Council at this time.

Staff Recommendation: Information only. No staff recommendation at this time.

Commission Recommendation: Not applicable.

Fiscal Impact: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) has awarded a total of \$33 million toward the design and construction of the East Market Street interchange with Battlefield Parkway. This included \$13 million in Fiscal Year 2016 and \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2017. An estimated \$25 million is still needed to fully fund the project. The Town and Loudoun County will pursue additional funding from NVTa and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to complete the project. The Town will submit an application to VDOT at the end of September for Smart Scale funds (formerly known as HB-2 funding) for Fiscal Year 2018. Also, the Town in conjunction with Loudoun County will apply to NVTa for Fiscal Year 2018 to complete the project funding.

Work Plan Impact: None. This project is part of the current work plan for the Department of Public Works & Capital Projects.

Executive Summary: The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) has awarded a total of \$33 million toward the design and construction of a grade-separated interchange between Battlefield Parkway and East Market Street (Route 7). This includes \$13 million awarded in Fiscal Year 2016 and \$20 million awarded for Fiscal Year 2017 during NVTa's July 14, 2016 board meeting. The estimated cost of the project is \$58 million. The Town and Loudoun County will continue to apply for additional funding from NVTa and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to complete the funding for the project.

VDOT is administering the project for the Town. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Background: The intersection of Battlefield Parkway and East Market Street (Route 7) historically has the highest accident rate, and continues to be one of the most congested locations in Town. Constructing a grade separated interchange at this intersection is considered to be one of the Town's and County's highest priority projects. The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$58 million. The project is included in the Town of Leesburg's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the Loudoun County CIP.

To date, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) awarded a total of \$33 million in regional (70%) funding to the project for preliminary design, utility relocations, and land acquisition. This includes \$13 million awarded in Fiscal Year 2016 and \$20 million awarded in Fiscal Year 2017. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has agreed to administer the design and construction of the project.

VDOT is currently accepting Fiscal Year 2018 SMART Scale funding applications. SMART Scale (formerly named HB-2 funding) is the state's prioritization process that evaluates projects' merits using key factors such as safety, congestion reduction, accessibility, land use, economic development and environment. Funding is awarded based on these evaluations. The Town will submit an application under this program for the remaining funds needed for the project.

In addition to the SMART Scale application, the Town and County will submit an application to NVTA for \$25 million in Fiscal Year 2018 for 70% funds.

On September 6, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors endorsed the project as the second highest priority transportation improvement project in the County. This endorsement and prioritization will be considered by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in developing the Fiscal Year 2018 to 2023 Six Year Improvement Plan.

Since the original NVTA grant award in 2015, the Town has entered into separate agreements with NVTA and VDOT. VDOT has initiated work on the project and is currently preparing preliminary alternative designs and the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) which will be required prior to approval of construction.

During the next two years, VDOT will complete the required IJR and preliminary design. A request for proposals for a design-build contract will be issued during the third quarter of calendar year 2018. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of calendar year 2022. This schedule was developed by VDOT in consultation with Leesburg and Loudoun County as part of the recent successful funding application to NVTA. VDOT has confirmed their commitment to meeting this schedule.